

39 Donna Street
West Peabody, Mass. 01962

October 5, 1964

Dear Eric,

Much has been happening except selling any of the Massachusetts silver pieces. I have a couple of them out now, and maybe something will happen there.

I would like very much to have the New Jersey reverse that matches the obverse which I already have. Incidentally, I shall return the copies as soon as I am through with them.

Regarding the 1724 Wood's Halfpence. There are 5 varieties without the period after the date, and 6 with the period after the date. My records show you have two of the varieties without the period, the 3.7i'-P.9', and 3.7j'-P.8', the latter being the specimen I desire.

I believe I have come up with another woopee. I have enclosed a copy of a new Franklin Press Cent, which I believe is phoney, which came from merry ole England, and which I shall send the coin itself should you care to see it. The workmanship is beautiful, and it could be okay, however, I have my doubts.

I have enclosed two English pieces, one which is just odd and I thought you might like to see it, this is the 1773, the other has all the earmarks of being Machins except the date 1747 is pretty early although it is mentioned in Betts. I'll also enclose a 1761 since the English did not make any coins then. I might mention that the 1747 piece and two 1771 Machin Mills pieces came from the same box. The 1771's were the same as those mentioned in your Enigma and pictured.

I have added your name to the book for cooperation in obtaining illustrations and mentioned that all the names in this book were only for that sort of help and did not indicate they agreed with the contents. Is it all right for me to leave it in?

Incidentally, do you have any duplicates of the Machin Mills products? I am trying to build up my own collection of them and lack several, having 12 different. As long as we are on that subject, is there any possibility of a trade in something I have in order to obtain your Vermont 34 or 35? I might mention that Ted Craige came up with another Ryder 37. I'm not trying to be greedy, I just want as complete a collection of Vermont as possible, and I now lack 6 of the 38 known.

Guess this is it for now.

Very sincerely,

October 26, 1964

Mr. Robert A. Vlack
39 Donna Street - Jordon Acres
West Peabody, Mass.

Dear Bob:

I am still in such a stew over my burglary that I have no time to write you about many open matters. I will cover a couple of critical ones.

I am returning the FRANKLIN PRESS tokens which you sent and have made my notes. It is important that this be written up immediately. Suppose you start out and send me your write-up and I will add and revise, if needed. It should be short and should refer to the Williamson article in the Franklin number for other detail. The weights are below.

You asked for a LIBER NATUS picture and I am enclosing it. You may keep it.

You asked for a GEORGE III IMMUNE picture and I am enclosing it and I definitely want it back.

Unfortunately, I do not collect Indian Peace Medals and am enclosing the one which you sent to me on approval.

I am most anxious to know how you are coming on the sale of the Massachusetts silver, so please keep me advised.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

November 3, 1964

Mr. Elston G. Bradfield
The Numismatist
P.O.Box 3491
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Brad:

Would you be nice enough to send me three additional copies of the November NUMISMATIST.

I want to keep you up to date on the matter of further forgeries coming out of England. Bob Vlack and myself are writing a short article on a FRANKLIN PRESS token forgery which has just appeared. That will be sent in to you, shortly.

I have already completed, and can send it in at any time, a substantially longer article on the forgery of the LONDON ELEPHANT tokens and in that article I explain the impact method of die forgery.

Please let me know whether you think it is important for me to continue to write up these forgeries as they come along. I did not intend to start a series of articles but it looks as though that is what I am being forced to do.

I cannot avoid commenting on an advertisement in the November NUMISMATIST, page 1566, where a Good Samaritan forgery is offered at \$1875.00. Since the original coin is a forgery, this is rather a high price to pay for a forgery of a forgery.

I certainly liked your write up of the convention and the pictures which your wife took.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

New Netherlands Coin Co., Inc.

SUITE 401
1 WEST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

PHONES PLAZA 7-5245-6

November 3, 1964

AIRMAIL

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

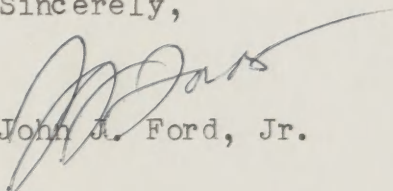
Dear Eric:

This is just a quick note to advise you that I have full particulars on the struck copy of the Franklin Press cent, and photos, and intend to include same as part of my next article on counterfeits.

I hope that you do not object, but I would like to report one Colonial, so as to keep my series well rounded.

Very best personal regards.

Sincerely,


John A. Ford, Jr.

JJF:dn

November 4, 1964

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
176 Hendrickson Avenue
Rockville Centre
Long Island, New York

Dear John:

Thank you for your note of November 3, which I received today, indicating that you intend to include the FRANKLIN PRESS Cent as part of your next article on counterfeits. You indicate that you hope that I do not object.

I had previously suggested to Bob Vlack that he could write the matter up or that he and I could do it jointly. In today's mail he has sent me a copy of his write-up for review.

My feeling is that it is up to Bob to determine who should write it up. It is his coin. He noticed it was a counterfeit and the information which you received came from him, as far as I know, and the information I received came from him.

I suggested it be put into the NUMISMATIST because that is where your articles were first published, that is where my three articles were published, and that is where I am going to send the ELEPHANT TOKEN article which is complete.

Yesterday I wrote Brad that the FRANKLIN PRESS article would be sent to him shortly and that the article on the ELEPHANT tokens would come soon thereafter.

I am sending Bob a copy of this letter and whatever you two decide is satisfactory to me. I merely want the information published, and published accurately.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

CC:
Mr. Robert A. Vlack
39 Donna St., Jordan Acres
West Peabody, Mass.

EPN/at b

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Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

CC:
Mr. Robert A. Vlack
39 Donna St., Jordan Acres
West Peabody, Mass.

EPN/atb

November 6, 1964

Mr. Robert A. Vlack
39 Donna Street - Jordan Acres
West Peabody, Mass.

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing the copy of your article on the FRANKLIN PRESS Cent with a number of revisions and suggestions.

I have eliminated edge lettering as that is covered, with many other things, in Ray Williamson's article.

I presume that you will rewrite it and, as far as I am concerned, you can send it in as revised. I also presume you intended that I return the pictures, which I am doing.

Please send me a copy of the letter to Bradfield and I will do my best to see that it is promptly published. Bradfield already knows that it is coming although he thought it was an article by the two of us, jointly.

Other matters are deferred for the moment.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

39 Donna Street
West Peabody, Mass. 01962

November 9, 1964

Dear Eric,

The article has been retyped and sent off already in the hopes that it can still make the December issue if at all possible. I had received the highly decorated copy from you only two hours ago.

I hope you are not even the slightest bit disturbed over the fact that I have written the article in my name. It is the first time that I have ever written for the Numismatist and I wanted something like that in my name. Don't think for a minute that I am seeking any sort of status or anything like that, for in the future I would like nothing better than for us to cooperate jointly in ventures, it is just this once, is that okay with you? I feel that with the effort you put into it, you should have been put there with me. I certainly am thankful for your help, and in reading over your corrections, I agree with just about everything, so I've let it go as is.

I've enclosed a copy of the letter that I have written to Br. Bradfield as you had requested.

I hope that the next time I hear from you you have something on the Machin Mills pieces. I'm most anxious to see exactly what is in the several lots I've sent you.

In my last letter I wrote, I mentioned I was going to hit the New Hampshire Convention for the sole purpose of searching the junk boxes for Machin Mills coinage, and again I was fortunate enough to find a couple more for the whole sum of \$1.05. One was a 1787 with the small date slanting down, in VF condition, but with a lovely hole. That cost .05, and the other was also a 1787, with the Vermont reverse, for \$1.00 in VG condition.

I'd love to find the 1776 that was written up in the Enigma. Anyhow, so much for now, I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Very sincerely,

Bob

37 Donna Street
West Peabody, Mass. 01962

November 9, 1964

Mr. Elston G. Bradfield, Editor
P.O. Box 3491
Chicago, Illinois 60654

Dear Mr. Bradfield,

I am hastening this article to you in the hopes that it will be inserted in the earliest possible edition of the *Numismatist*, even in the December Issue, if at all possible. Mr. Eric P. Neuman has made me aware of the fact that you are expecting this, and he has been kind enough to go over the article, and give it his blessings. I have only received the re-edited copy from him today, and am wasting no time in getting it off to you.

I have enclosed two cards of photographs, which I would like to have returned to me if this is possible, as they are from my own files, and I now have no others.

I might mention that the urgency of this article is very important, to help put a stop to the Colonial forgeries that have been coming to the American market from England, and to inform the public at once. I trust that you shall do all you can to help in this endeavor.

Very sincerely,

cc: Mr. Eric P. Neuman

Robert A. Vlack

Nov. 14, 1964

Mr. Robert J. Vlack
39 Donna St.
West Peabody, Mass. 01962

Dear Mr. Vlack:

We are delighted to receive "Payable at the Franklin Press-- Or Is It?" and will try to get it in January issue (December is already in press.). Only one thing puzzles me-- I thought the authorship was a joint one, Newman and Vlack. Please advise me on this point.

Will be happy to return the cards bearing copy for the engraver as soon as possible.

Best regards

Sincerely

Brad

cc: Mr. Newman

November 16, 1964

Mr. Robert A. Vlack
39 Donna Street
West Peabody, Mass. 01962

Dear Bob:

Elston Bradfield seems to have thought the FRANKLIN PRESS article would be in both of our names. He got this idea from my letter of November 3, a copy of which is enclosed. I sent this before I received your draft of the article.

I certainly have no objection to the item being published in your name only and you should decide and write him accordingly, if you wish.

I am sending an extra copy of this letter to you if you care to send it to him.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

PAYABLE AT THE FRANKLIN PRESS - OR IS IT???

by

Robert A. Vlack - ANA 33996

Another modern die forgery, this time of the Franklin Press token, has appeared on the scene. As in all the other recent discoveries of the new spurious types, this specimen has likewise come from England, and one begins to wonder where it will end.

The original Franklin Press token was issued around 1794 in England as one of the many tradesmans tokens of Middlesex County. This token offers very little in the way of association with the early American coinage. In literature, the Franklin Press has been associated with Benjamin Franklin, but only to the extent that Franklin had operated the press at an early period in his life while still residing in England. The variety with a lettered edge, "AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESS'D OF ALL NATIONS", is the other connection with America, where this edge has appeared on many of the Washington coins and the Kentucky token. As this edge device was wantonly used on many other non-American English tradesmans tokens, there can be no conclusion drawn that this is a basis for its ever being issued for American circulation. We never-the-less now find this variety in almost every collection of Colonial coins, and I believe it shall remain as such from now on.

The new forgery has several distinguishing features that mark it as an outright forgery. The most obvious is the exact duplication of the letter spacing even to the extent of incorrect letter spacing. On the original, the R in PRESS is too close to the P leaving a wide gap between the R and E. This feature is duplicated on the forgery. The first A of PAYABLE is too close to the Y which again is duplicated on the forgery. The spacing of the date, wider between the 7 and 9 was likewise duplicated, and the stop at the bottom of the date is closer to the S of SIC rather than centered which should normally be the case, or closer to the S of LIBERTAS.

Strangely enough, two different letter punches of the S was used on the forgery, and on the original they were all alike. The two S's on the bottom, which were probably used for alignment purposes were too large for the legend and a smaller squattier S was used in SURGEON. Also the S of LIBERTAS was recut with evidence of a further S showing just past the recut S. This recutting does not appear on the forgery.

The extreme upper left portion of the press touches the right upright of the R of DOCTRINA on the forgery, and on the original, it is very close to, or sometimes touches the left upright of the R. Again on the original the word THE slopes down with respect to FRANKLIN, but on the original, it is straight across.

The forgery has the lettering very close to the border tentacles, whereas on the original, it is further away. On the originals, the specimens were struck without benefit of a collar and the flange is much thinner on the edges. The forgery appears to have been held in a crude collar, and when struck gives the appearance of a high wire edge effect around the periphery. The surface of the forgery was also quite smooth, almost prooflike, and more pleasing in appearance as compared to the cruder surface of a common tradesman token.

Weight was also taken into account and the forgery appears to be on the heavier side weighing $133\frac{1}{2}$ grains as compared to 115 to 120 for the average original token.

With all this, what more can be said. This token and its symbolic status has now been lowered several notches, and may never be the same. To date, I know of only this one specimen and can only wonder to what extent these forgeries will turn up, and from where. I suspect it won't be long before others of this type and of other varieties will appear on the scene thus deceiving a numismatist of a coin with a tainted heritage.

PAYABLE AT THE FRANKLIN PRESS - OR IS IT???

by

Robert A. Vlack - ANA 33996

Another modern die ^{struck} forgery, ~~this time~~ of the Franklin Press token, has appeared. ~~on the scene~~ As in ~~other~~ other recent discoveries of ~~the~~ new spurious ~~pieces~~ ^{pieces}, this specimen ~~also came~~ from England, and one begins to wonder where ~~it~~ ^{this activity} will end.

The original Franklin Press token was issued ~~around~~ ⁱⁿ 1794 in England as one of the many tradesman's tokens of Middlesex County. This token ~~offers~~ ^{offer} has very little ~~in the way of association with~~ ^{relationship to} the early American coinage. In literature, the Franklin Press has been associated with Benjamin Franklin, ~~because~~ ^{because} ~~but only to the extent that Franklin had operated the press~~ ^{while learning} ~~at an early period~~ ^{in New York}.

NOTE: An ~~extensive study~~ ^{extensive study} of the history ~~and detail~~ ^{and detail} about ~~the token~~ ^{the token} was written by Raymond Williamson for the Benjamin Franklin Issue of the Numismatist (December, 1956) p1371.

The new forgery has several ~~unmistakable~~ ^{unmistakable} errors in ~~it~~ ^{it}. The most obvious is the exact duplication of the letter position and spacing, even to the extent of ~~the~~ ^{errors in} letter spacing. On the original, the R in PRESS is too close to the P leaving a wide gap between the R and E. This feature is duplicated on the forgery. ^{On the original} The first A of PAYABLE is too close to the Y which again is duplicated on the forgery. The ^{wide} spacing of the date ~~between the 7 and 9~~ ^{in the date} was likewise duplicated, and the stop at the bottom ~~between the S and~~ ^{between the S and} the date is ~~much~~ ^{much} closer to the S of SIC rather than centered ~~where it should normally~~ ^{where it should normally} be.

Strangely enough, two different ^{types of} S were used on the forgery, ~~on the original they are~~ ^{on the original they are} all alike. The two S's ^{in SIC and LIBERTAS} ~~on the bottom~~ which were probably used for alignment purposes were ~~too large for the legend~~ ^{too large for the legend} and then, while ~~a smaller, squatter S was used in SURGETQUE~~ ^{a smaller, squatter S was used in SURGETQUE} Also the S of LIBERTAS ~~was~~ ^{was} being recut ~~with a different punch~~ ^{so that angles} just past the recut S. ~~This the forgery~~ ^{This the forgery} recutting does not appear on the forgery. ^{is not cut with punches}

In the original ~~the~~ each S is cut with the same punch into the die, ~~and~~

the die, ~~the original~~

On the forgery

The extreme upper left portion of the press touches the right ^{foot} ~~upright~~ of the R of DOCTRINA, ~~on the forgery, and~~ ^{while} on the original, ~~it is very close~~ ^{the press} to, ~~on sometimes~~ touches the left ^{upright} of the R. Again ~~On the original~~ ^{the original} forgery the word THE slopes down with respect to FRANKLIN, but on the original, it is straight across. the L in LONDON differs from the L in FRANKLIN while on the original they are cut ^{with the same} ~~the same~~ ^{letter} punch. ~~the lettering very close to the border denticles, whereas~~

The forgery has the lettering very close to the ^{heavy} border denticles, whereas on the original, it is further away. ~~The originals, the specimens~~ were struck without ~~the edge~~ of a collar and the flange is much thinner on the obverse. The ~~planchet for the~~ forgery appears to have been held in a crude collar, and when struck gives ~~the appearance of~~ a high ~~edge~~ around the periphery. The surface of the forgery ~~is~~ also quite smooth, almost prooflike, and more ~~unnatural~~ in appearance ^{when} compared to the cruder surface of a ^{normal} ~~common~~ tradesman's token. The forgery is artificially toned in color.

^{creates} The weight ^{of the} ~~token is~~ ^{is} 133½ grains as compared to 115 to 120 ^{grains} for the average genuine ~~original~~ token.

can be expressed but disgust.

With all this, what ~~more can be said~~. This token and its symbolic status has now been ^{damaged} ~~lowered~~ several notches, and may never be the same. To date, I know of only ~~the~~ ^{one} ~~specimen~~ ^{specimen} and can only wonder to what extent these forgeries will turn up, and from where. I suspect it won't be long before others of this type ~~and of other varieties~~ will appear on the scene, ~~and it is hoped that~~ ^{and it is hoped that} a numismatist of a coin with a tainted heritage

this ~~is~~ description of the forgery will be helpful to prevent further deception.

10/20/64

Franklin Press

Obv

The right foot of R in DOCTRINA touches ^{the counter, press frame} the ~~frame~~. In the genuine it's close but doesn't touch ~~but~~ the left foot ^{of R} does.

✓ Dee break usually found at ER in ~~DOCTRINA~~ LIBERTAS not present on forgery

~~S~~ S in SIC and S in LIBERTAS are much thinner and larger than S in SURGETQUE instead of all punched alike as in genuine.

thin lines in fence work on movable element on press

Rev: Crossbar of second A in PAYABLE hand cut and extends to left of ~~left~~ thin left upright. All ~~these~~ A have much larger center openings than normal A

Top of E in PRESS is low

Center point same as on genuine

All three the serifs on the ~~first~~ ^{second} N in LONDON are ^{hand cut} different from each ~~other~~ ^{first} instead of being from the same letter punch

L in LONDON thicker than L in FRANKLIN or L in PAYABLE. whereas on genuine all are alike.

General: Color artificially darkened.
lettering generally larger than genuine
letters are hand engraved and not cut
into die by ~~punch~~ letter punches.

Black sent

Oct 1964

Phoney Franklin Press Wt. $133\frac{1}{2}$ gr

Genuine $116\frac{1}{2}$ gr

My genuine spec $120\frac{1}{2}$ gr.

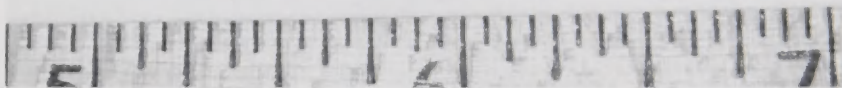


Regular Universe



Regular Reverse

New Obverse



1 *New Reverse*



COUNTERFEIT SOVEREIGN 1918 M "R21"

Bulletin on Cefs
Vol 4, No 4

Winter 1979



This counterfeit has the following characteristics: weight 7.999 grammes; S.G. 17.02; fineness gold approximately 880 parts per 1,000; diameter 22.10/22.14 mm.; *Obverse* The design is slightly defective as are the letters of the inscription; "R21" is an integral part of the design, i.e., it is in relief and is not a countermark; *Reverse* This shows no pronounced defects; *Edge* Milled — the number of notches being incorrect; *Struck* ↑↑. Possibly " " indicates the fineness in carats; certainly 21 carats — 872 parts per 1,000 — corresponds remarkably well with the derived fineness of approximately 880 parts per 1,000.

Any information on this piece would be welcome.

COUNTERFEIT FRANKLIN PRESS TOKEN

This counterfeit, submitted by A.N.A.C.S. has the following characteristics: weight, 8.326 grammes; specific gravity, 9.62; material, solder of composition lead 57% + tin 43%; diameter, 27.85/27.09 mm. *Obverse*: All the letters of the inscription and the illustration of the press are defective. There is a casting flaw on the table adjacent to the right top side of the press and below the letters "ET" of "SURGETQUE". Pitting is apparent (and plainly visible on the photograph) on many parts of the table, particularly within and without the left middle of the press. *Reverse*: As on the obverse, all the letters of the inscription are defective and there is massive pitting on many parts of the table, particularly to the left of the "A" of "AT" and surrounding the "HE" of "THE" and the "FR" of "FRANKLIN". The last "N" of "FRANKLIN" lacks its right hand vertical stroke. *Edge*: Plain, again showing pitting and holes which indicate that the runner and the riser were in the 8 and 9 o'clock positions. This is a typical cast counterfeit and writes on paper. It has been toned. A genuine piece is made of bronze.

